

REMARKS

At the time of the last Office Action in the present application, claims 8-54 were pending in the application. Of those claims, claims 8, 31 and 43 were independent claims.

In the last Office Action, all of the claims 8-54 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. (2001/0034614) in view of the newly cited WITHERS (5,752,234). The rejection was not a final rejection.

The present invention is directed to a system, computer readable medium and method for managing an inventory of blood component collection soft goods and preventing the use of such soft goods which have been quarantined before they are used. Blood component collection soft goods typically come in a sealed package and provide the equipment for the collection of the blood or blood components from the donor, such as tubing, needles, containers and solutions needed for that purpose. See paragraphs 0392-3. Some of such soft goods packages may become quarantined before they are used (see paragraphs 0105, 0268 and 0392-3) for any one of a number of possible reasons, such as previous opening, becoming damaged, having passed the use date or having been superseded by upgraded

soft goods.

FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. discloses a computerized blood collection system which is designed to optimize and maximize the yield of desired blood components, such as platelets, plasma and red blood cells. See the abstract and paragraphs 0162 and 0195. Disposable tubing such as may be utilized during the blood collection may also be identified and recorded (paragraph 0083), tubing size type and bag identifiers may be recorded (paragraph 0125) presumably to be able to determine which tubing was used with a given donor, and the type of tubing may be placed in the final report (paragraph 0166). However, there is no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever in FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. of inventorying any of the blood component collection soft goods or of quarantining such blood component collection soft goods either before or after use in the collection of blood from the donor. FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. is absolutely silent in those aspects.

Recognizing that FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest the quarantining of anything, the newly cited WITHERS has been relied upon for its disclosure of a method and package for supplying health care workers with disposable supplies appropriate for a single patient visit by the health care worker. The disposable supplies

which are determined to be needed by the patient during the visit are placed into a disposable container and then delivered to the site where the patient is to receive the treatment prior to the visit by the health care worker.

Once treatment is performed on the patient by the health care worker any dispensed medical supplies that were in the package and used in the treatment become medical waste which the health care worker puts back into the package. At this time the original package is considered to be a medical waste package. The health care worker permanently seals the waste package and a bar code on the package identifies the package for shipment of the package to a disposal site.

WITHERS fails to disclose or suggest that the package of disposable supplies which it addresses has anything to do with the collection of blood from a donor or that the supplies include a blood component collection soft good as in the present claimed invention. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not look to WITHERS for a teaching that a blood component collection soft good such as utilized in the system of FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. should be inventoried or quarantined as set forth in each of the independent claims in the present application.

Moreover, each of the independent claims in the

present application have been amended to set forth that the blood component collection soft good quarantine information is processed prior to the use of the blood component soft good. WITHERS contains no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever that quarantine of any of its packages or disposable medical supplies is processed prior to their use. Indeed, if any quarantine occurs in WITHERS, it is only after the use of the disposable medical supplies when they become waste and are to be disposed of.

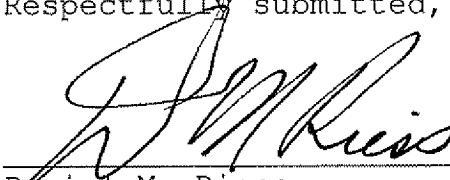
Accordingly, even when FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. has been modified by the teachings of WITHERS, a system, computer readable medium and method still does not result in which a blood component collection soft good inventory and quarantine information relative thereto is processed prior to the use of the blood component soft good.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the present application, claims 8-54, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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